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Agenda item 106 (b)
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General*

Introduction

1. In paragraph 116 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/CONF.191/11), adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Brussels on 20 May 2001 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session his recommendations for an efficient and highly visible follow-up mechanism, including the possibility to transform the current Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries into an Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Programme of Action

2. The economic and social development of the least developed countries, which represent the poorest and weakest segment of the international community, continues to be a major challenge for those countries as well as for their development partners. Together with the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States, they are characterized by their exposure to a series of vulnerabilities and constraints.

3. As noted in the Programme of Action, the objectives and goals set in 1990 have not been achieved. The existing arrangement for system-wide follow-up of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries has not been as effective as envisaged. The limitations of the current arrangement have been particularly evident with regard to the monitoring of implementation at the national level and throughout the United Nations system.

4. Following the adoption in September 1990 of the Paris Declaration at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 45/206 of 21 December 1990, that, in cooperation with other

* The report is being submitted after the established deadline because General Assembly resolution 55/279 was only adopted on 12 July 2001 and extensive consultations had to take place before the report could be completed.

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concerned organizations of the United Nations system, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as part of its ongoing work, should continue to serve as the focal point for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the follow-up at the global level and support at the regional level. At the intergovernmental level, the Trade and Development Board was requested to review progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

5. In the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close collaboration with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the secretariats of the regional commissions to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation and follow-up of the Programme of Action. By virtue of the fact that 34 out of the 48 least developed countries were in Africa, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries was also involved in coordination functions.

6. The Programme of Action adopted in Brussels is different from previous programmes of action in terms of its objectives, orientation, scope and follow-up arrangements, and it provides a framework for a strong global partnership. Its overarching goal is to achieve substantial progress towards meeting the Millennium Declaration goal of reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015 (see General Assembly resolution 55/2) and to promote sustainable development. It focuses on seven areas of commitment:

(a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;

(b) Good governance at the national and international levels;

(c) Building human and institutional capacities;

(d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;

(e) Enhancing the role of trade and development;

(f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;

(g) Mobilizing financial resources.

Arrangements for follow-up

7. The Programme of Action acknowledges that success in attaining its objectives will depend on the effective functioning of the arrangements for implementation, follow-up, monitoring and review at the national, regional and global levels.

8. At the national level, each least developed country, with the support of its development partners, will translate actions contained in the Programme of Action into specific measures within their national development framework and poverty eradication strategy, including, where they exist, poverty eradication strategy papers, common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The regional-level follow-up should focus on cooperation between the least developed countries and other countries at the regional and subregional levels. At the global level, follow-up should be primarily concerned with assessing the economic and social performance of the least developed countries, monitoring the implementation of commitments by them and their partners, reviewing the functioning of implementation and follow-up mechanisms at the country, subregional, regional and sectoral levels and policy developments at the global level with implications for the least developed countries. The three-track approach is expected to function in a coherent and mutually supportive manner and to contribute to the coordinated follow-up of global summits and conferences and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as other major initiatives.

9. The organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, have a special role to play and are called upon to accord high priority to the Programme of Action and to integrate its provisions into their work programmes. The Secretary-General has been requested to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation as well as coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action at all levels. The Administrative Committee on Coordination and the United Nations Development Group have been invited to consider means of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system-wide follow-up and monitoring. The system of

focal points in the United Nations organizations would be a useful instrument in fulfilling this requirement.

10. At the country level, the United Nations system can assist in the promotion of an effective follow-up to the commitments of the Programme of Action, in particular within the framework of the resident coordinator system: this process needs to be further strengthened. At the regional level, the relevant United Nations regional commissions would continue to ensure that the needs and problems of the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States are addressed as part of their ongoing work and would also undertake periodic regional monitoring and review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

11. As regards intergovernmental follow-up at the global level, the Programme of Action invites the General Assembly to continue monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action under a specific item on its agenda and to consider conducting a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action at a time to be decided upon. The Assembly is also invited to consider holding a fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries for a comprehensive appraisal of its implementation.

12. Having considered paragraph 111 of the Programme of Action, the Economic and Social Council, in its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, decided to establish in its agenda a sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" under the item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits". In the same decision, the Council also decided to consider, at a substantive session before 2005, devoting a high-level segment to the review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to consider later in the decade further options for such review and coordination. These decisions reflect the importance attached to the need for an effective and efficient follow-up to the new Programme of Action and represent a significant step towards strengthening the monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.

13. The governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other multilateral organizations, have been invited to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action in their programme of work, as well as in their intergovernmental processes. The Trade and Development Board, at its forty-eighth session, held in Geneva in October 2001, responded to the invitation extended in paragraph 113 of the Programme of Action on the conversion of the Sessional Committee on the Least Developed Countries to a standing committee, and decided to begin consultations thereon in the context of the examination of the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, with a view to making a decision on the issue at the mid-term review of the tenth session of UNCTAD to be carried out in 2002.[1]

14. Over the years, the functions of the system-wide structures involved in the follow-up mechanism have evolved or have been unable to fully discharge their responsibilities. For example, the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Cooperation has ceased to exist. Follow-up at the global level, which was one of the responsibilities entrusted to UNCTAD, could not be fully accomplished, mainly because the scope of the Programme of Action was beyond the mandate of any single organization. Moreover, UNCTAD does not have direct representation in United Nations country offices, which are in the best position to monitor implementation at the national level. It is not fair to burden organizations such as UNCTAD, which has an excellent and praiseworthy track record in assisting the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in its areas of expertise, with wider responsibilities as focal point for the implementation of a Programme of Action that covers a multitude of priority areas. While the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries has undertaken some activities on the least developed countries, the main focus of its work in recent years has been on African development, which is one of the priorities of the United Nations, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

15. The Brussels Programme of Action identified a critical need for an effective and highly visible mechanism for the follow-up of its implementation and for the full mobilization of the organizations of the

United Nations system and other multilateral organizations. The effectiveness of existing arrangements has to be improved and clearer and more rational allocations of responsibility for monitoring and follow-up put in place, taking into account the wider scope of the new Programme of Action.

Proposals for future follow-up mechanism

16. **With the above considerations in mind, the General Assembly may wish to establish an Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The High Representative would be at the Under-Secretary-General level and would report directly to the Secretary-General. In addition to the position of the High Representative, the Office would comprise a Director at the D-2 level, 10 other Professional posts and 8 General Service posts (a total of 20 posts).** For comparison purposes, the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, which also has coordination and advocacy functions, has a similar structure and a slightly higher staffing level. The Office of the High Representative would be responsible only for coordination, advocacy and reporting. Analytical and technical cooperation functions would continue to be carried out by other organizations in the United Nations system, including UNCTAD, in accordance with their mandates and comparative advantages. **The existing UNCTAD Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries should continue to be an important vehicle for promoting technical cooperation activities and capacity-building in the least developed countries. Member States are urged to continue contributing generously to the Trust Fund.**

17. **The key functions of the Office of the High Representative would be:**

(a) To assist the Secretary-General in ensuring the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries at the country, regional and global levels;

(b) To provide coordinated support to the Economic and Social Council as well as the General Assembly in assessing progress and in conducting the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) To support, as appropriate, the coordinated follow-up of the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[3]

(d) To undertake appropriate advocacy work in favour of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with the civil society, media, academia and foundations;

(e) To assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and other programmes and initiatives for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(f) To provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

18. In close collaboration with the executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system, the High Representative would assist the Secretary-General in ensuring that the Programme of Action is mainstreamed into the work of each organization. National-level implementation, which is a critical element in the success of the Programme of Action, would be monitored and supported through the United Nations Development Group and the resident coordinator system. The Office of the High Representative would also assist in strengthening the system of focal points for the least developed countries within individual United Nations organizations.

19. Bearing in mind the proposal that the High Representative should report directly to the Secretary-General, that the Office should have high visibility at the political level and that all least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States be represented in New York,

I am recommending that the Office be located at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Contacts with key organizations and entities such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Group, as well as with the Bretton Woods institutions, would also be facilitated.

20. In paragraph 116 of the Programme of Action, I was requested to include in my recommendations the possibility of transforming the current Office of the Special Coordinator for the Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries into an Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. For 2002-2003, the Office of the Special Coordinator in UNCTAD will have a total of 17 Professional posts. As Member States are aware, the structure, mandate and functions of the Office have changed over the years. The Office was set up to coordinate substantive work on the least developed countries; to monitor the implementation of the Paris Programme of Action and of commitments, measures and recommendations agreed upon at the mid-term global review and recent global conferences; to mobilize resources for and administer the Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries within UNCTAD; and to coordinate the preparation of annual reports on the least developed countries. The Office of the Special Coordinator was given responsibility for promoting the implementation of specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked and island developing States. It was also entrusted with the responsibility of providing substantive servicing to the Trade and Development Board in its review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries and in preparing inputs for the consideration of items on the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States by the General Assembly.

21. After a careful review of the initial mandate given to UNCTAD in 1990, subsequent changes and resources approved by Member States and the current functions of the Office of the Special Coordinator, I have decided not to propose the transformation of the entire Office into an Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. At the same time, taking into account the fact that the responsibility for system-wide coordination and supporting the annual review of progress and implementation of the Programme of Action would be transferred to a new follow-up mechanism, **I am proposing that seven Professional posts and three General Service posts be transferred from the Office of the Special Coordinator to the new Office of the High Representative.** The remaining 10 Professional posts in the Office of the Special Coordinator, together with other resources approved for the specific benefit of support to the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States will continue to be used by UNCTAD to provide support to those categories of countries in its areas of expertise.

22. There will obviously be a need to make some readjustments in the functions of the Office of the Special Coordinator and also to change its denomination. It should be recalled that the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of the Trade and Development Board, when considering section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 11A)), decided at its session in June 2001 to review the impact on the system-wide coordination aspects contained in subprogramme 5, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the decisions of the General Assembly based on the recommendations to be made by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session for an efficient and highly visible mechanism for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Working Party will meet for this purpose in January 2002. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD will review the title and functions of the current UNCTAD Office for Special Coordinator, and the Working Party will be invited to review modifications to subprogramme 5 in the light of the decisions of the General Assembly on the recommendations set out in the present report.

23. As some resources have been allocated to the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries in connection with its responsibility for the least developed countries, **I am also proposing the transfer of two Professional posts and one General Service post from the Office of the Special Coordinator to the proposed Office of the High Representative.** There will be a total of nine Professional posts in the Office of the Special Coordinator for 2002-2003, of which two would be

newly established. A new General Service post would also be established.

24. **The balance of posts would need to be filled through secondments from other United Nations system organizations or from extrabudgetary resources, or should be proposed as new established posts.** I shall be consulting with my colleagues in the United Nations system to identify how many of these posts could be filled through secondment. **I would also wish to appeal to interested Member States to consider funding some of these posts with extrabudgetary resources to show solidarity with the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States.**

25. The international community has a responsibility to adopt the necessary support measures to reverse the marginalization of the least developed, landlocked and small island developing States and to promote their expeditious integration into the world economy. The primary responsibility rests with the countries themselves, but progress can be made only with the full collaboration and assistance of their development partners. The effective functioning of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would depend critically on the cooperation and collaboration of all parts of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant multilateral organizations, particularly those that have a long record of work on these categories of countries. For my part, I shall ensure that the United Nations system fulfil its responsibilities in a coordinated and effective manner, and it is in this spirit that I have submitted the recommendations contained in the present report.

26. The budgetary implications of the proposals outlined in the present report will be contained in an addendum.

Notes

[1] See A/56/15 (Part III), decision 467 (XLVIII).

[2] TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

[3] Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II).

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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General of 23 November 2001 (A/56/645, para. 26), the present addendum outlines the resource requirements of the proposals of the Secretary-General for the implementation of the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

2. The post requirements for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States would be as shown in table 1 below:

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Table 1
Posts requirements

	Regular budget	*Redeployed from section 10*	*Redeployed/abolished from section 11A*
USG	1[a]		
D-2	1[a]		
D-1			1[a]
P-5	2	1	2[a]
P-4	3	1	2
P-3	1		1
P-2	1		1
GS (OL)	4	1	3
Total[b]	**13**	**3**	**10**

[a] The USG and D-2 posts would be established while it is proposed to abolish one D-1 and one P-5 post.

[b] In addition, it is anticipated that one D-1, one P-5, one P-3 and three GS (OL) posts may be provided through secondment or from extrabudgetary resources.

3. These requirements would be reflected under a new section, 9A, Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to be established in the regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003, which, as indicated in table 1 above, would include 13 posts, as follows: (a) the establishment of one Under-Secretary-General and one D-2; and (b) the redeployment of: (i) one P-5, one P-4 and one General Service level post from subprogramme 1, Mobilization of international support and global coordination, of section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development; and (ii) one P-5, two P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and three General Service level posts would be redeployed from section 11A, Trade and development. In addition, it is anticipated that one D-1, one P-5, one P-3 and three General Service level posts may be provided through secondment from other United Nations system organizations or from extrabudgetary resources.

4. The resource requirements by object of expenditure would be as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2
Requirements by object of expenditures

	Total requirements	*Proposed transfers from*		*Net total requirements*
		section 10	*section 11A*	
Posts	2 675 000	683 900	1 857 500	133 600
Other staff costs	103 000	6 000	17 000	80 000
Consultants and experts	42 000	-	-	42 000
Travel	60 000	15 000	45 000	-
Contractual services	20 000	5 000	15 000	-
General operating expenditures	77 600	-	-	77 600
Hospitality	2 000	-	-	2 000
Supplies and materials	2 400	-	-	2 400
Furniture and equipment	73 600	-	-	73 500
Rental of premises and alterations	850 800	-	-	850 800
Total	**3 906 400**	**709 900**	**1 934 500**	**1 261 900**

5. The proposal would amount to total requirements of $3,906,400, of which $3,055,600 would be approved under the new section 9A, Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and $850,800 under section 27D, Office of Common Support Services. The amount for posts represents the standard cost of 13 posts (one Under-Secretary-General; one D-2, two P-5, three P-4, one P-3, one P-2 and four General Service level posts) in New York. In the absence of past pattern of expenditures, the amounts for non-post requirements were arrived at as follows:

(a) Other staff costs, consultants and experts, travel and contractual services were determined on an indicative basis, bearing in mind the nature of the work to be undertaken by the new office;

(b) General operating expenditures, supplies and furniture and equipment: these estimates were arrived at by applying the standard costs;

(c) Hospitality: the estimates were determined by applying the ratio of the overall amount of resources for hospitality under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 over the total amount of resources for posts in the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, to the amount of $2,675,000 shown in table 2 above under posts.

6. As shown in table 2, the proposal would also result in a reduction of $709,900, under section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development, and $1,934,500 under section 11A, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The reductions proposed for posts under both sections are based on the standard costs for the posts transferred at the respective duty stations. The reductions for non-post requirements (other staff costs, travel, contractual services) under the two sections are proposed bearing in mind the transfer of activities to the new section 9A.

7. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/56/645, para. 17), the key functions of the Office of the High Representative would be the following:

(a) To assist the Secretary-General in ensuring the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system, with a view to facilitating the coordinated implementation of and coherence in the follow-up and monitoring of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries at country, regional and global levels;

(b) To provide coordinated support to the Economic and Social Council as well as the General Assembly in assessing progress and in conducting the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) To support, as appropriate, the coordinated follow-up of the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the donor community and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(d) To undertake appropriate advocacy work in favour of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in partnership with the relevant bodies of the United Nations as well as with civil society, the media, academia and foundations;

(e) To assist in mobilizing international support and resources for the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, and for other programmes and initiatives in former landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(f) To provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

8. The following structure for the Office of the High Representative is proposed:

Office of the High Representative

High Representative **Under-Secretary-General**

Director **D-2**

- Provide overall coordination of staff and management of the Office
- Deputize for High Representative
- Engage in high-level discussions with Member States and United Nations entities
- Coordinate reports to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly
- Provide direction for establishing and maintaining linkages within the United Nations system

Special Assistant to the High Representative P-5

- Responsible for the "front office" of the High Representative
- Follow-up communications addressed to the High Representative
- Review and provide quality control for speeches, briefing notes, etc.
- Manage calendar and official engagements of the High Representative
- Provide liaison with offices of other principals

Personal Assistant to the High Representative General Service (Other level)

- Provide administrative back-up for the High Representative

Administrative Assistant General Service (Other level)

- Provide administrative back-up for the Director and Special Assistant

Policy Development and Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Unit

Chief of Unit	D-1[1]
Two Senior Programme Officers[2]	P-5[1]
Programme Officer	P-4
Programme Officer	P-3[1]
Associate Programme Officer	P-2
Three administrative assistants	GS (OL)[1]

- Follow-up on the effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries throughout the United Nations system
- Establish and maintain linkages with other parts of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committees, the High-level Committee on Programmes of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and regional commissions
- Coordinate the system of focal points on least developed countries in individual organizations
- Review and analyse reports from organizations of the United Nations system and country teams
- Participate in coordination meetings within the United Nations system
- Monitor and analyse implementation of Programme of Action, programmes and initiatives for least developed countries and small island developing States
- Review and analyse reports on country-level implementation

[1] One D-1, one P-5, one P-3 and two GS (OL) posts may be provided through secondment from other United Nations system organizations or from extrabudgetary resources.

[2] The Senior Programme Officer funded from the regular budget would serve as focal point for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

- Prepare reports for annual reviews by intergovernmental bodies and inputs for coordination meetings within the United Nations system and for reports and statements by the Secretary-General
- Prepare briefing notes on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States for the High Representative and the Secretary-General
- In collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, assist in the coordination support of the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
- Provide appropriate support to group consultations of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Advocacy and Outreach Unit

Chief of Unit	P-4
Information/Communications Officer	P-3
Administrative Assistant	GS (OL)[3]

- Assist in advocacy and outreach strategies of the Office
- Assist the High Representative and the Director in liaison with donors
- Coordination of public awareness programmes for issues of concern to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
- Responsibility for liaising with media
- Dissemination of information materials
- Respond to enquiries about the Office
- Liaise, as required, with civil society and non-governmental organizations
- Responsibility for the Office web site

Administrative and Office Support Unit

Administrative Officer	**P-4**
Administrative Assistant	**General Service (Other level)**

- Preparation of work plan, projects, donor reports
- Personnel and financial management
- Trust fund management, if appropriate

[3] The GS (OL) post may be provided through secondment from other United Nations system organizations or from extrabudgetary resources.

- Financial entries/reports
- Processing of payments, travel arrangements, contracts, etc.
- Day-to-day office administration responsibilities and procedures

Explanation of the use of resources requested for the Office of the High Representative

Other staff costs

9. The amount of $103,000 would provide for additional support at peak period as well as for replacement of staff on sick leave or maternity leave.

Consultants and experts

10. The amount of $42,000 would provide for specialized service not available in the Secretariat and for expert meetings, as relevant.

Travel

11. The amount of $60,000 would provide for travel of the High Representative and staff of the Office in ensuring the mobilization, coordination and follow-up of the Programme of Action at the country, regional and global levels.

Contractual services

12. The amount of $20,000 is proposed for covering the costs of external printing, translation and printing of publications.

General operating expenses

13. Estimated requirements of $77,600, based on standard costs, would provide for:

(a) Rental and maintenance of office equipment, $4,800;

(b) Communications, telephone and facsimile charges, $48,800;

(c) Maintenance of office automation equipment and data-processing equipment, $24,000.

Hospitality

14. A provision of $2,000 would be required for functions in connection with official visits of dignitaries and special events.

Supplies and materials

15. Based on standard costs, a provision of $2,400 is proposed for office supplies.

Furniture and equipment

16. Based on standard costs, a provision of $73,600 would cover the acquisition of:

(a) Office furniture, $47,200;

(b) Office automation equipment, $26,400.

17. It is estimated that the requirements for rental of premises and for alterations for the Office would be $522,800 and $328,000 respectively, for a total of $850,800.

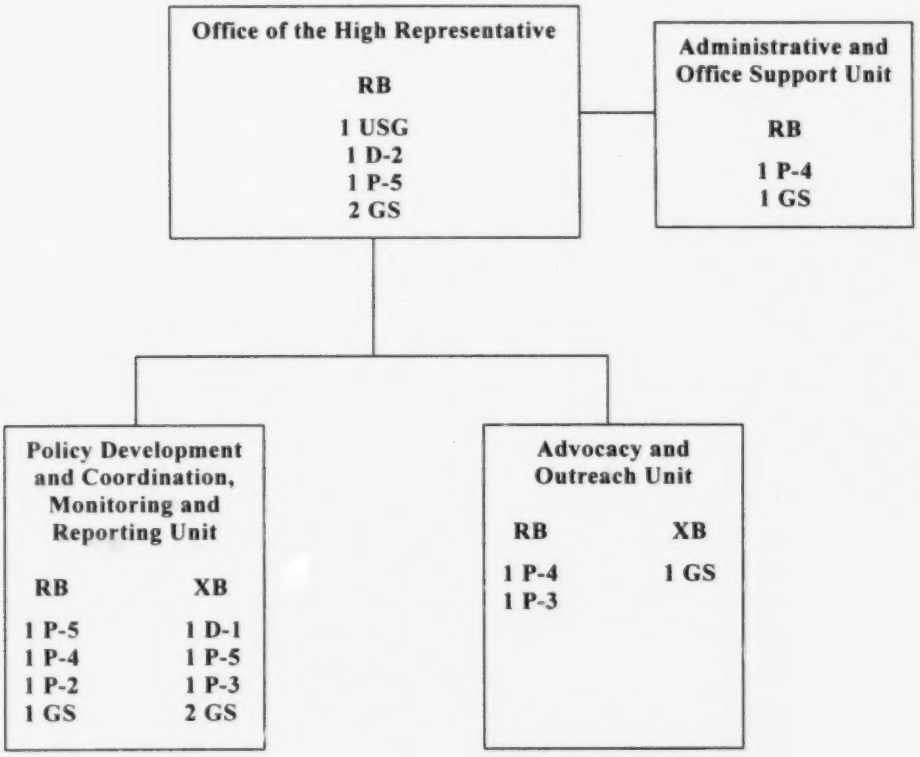
18. **In summary, the budget implications of the proposal to establish an Office of the High Representative for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States for the biennium 2002-2003 would be as follows**:

Section 9A, Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States	3 055 600
Section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development	(709 900)
Section 11A, Trade and development	(1 934 500)
Section 27D, Office of Central Support Services	850 800
Total	**1 261 900**

19. The total appropriation required would amount to $1,261,900. Furthermore, an increase in the amount of $74,900 for staff assessment would also be required, which would be fully offset by a decrease in income of the same amount under Income section 1.

Annex

Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States



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Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Corrigendum

1. **Table 2, last column, Net total requirements**

   (a) *Replace* $73,500 for furniture and equipment *with* $73,600

   (b) *Replace* the total of $1,261,900 *with* $1,262,000

2. **Paragraph 18**

   Replace the total of $1,261,900 *with* $1,262,000

3. **Paragraph 19**

   (a) In first sentence, *replace* $1,261,900 *with* $1,262,000

   (b) *Replace* the last sentence with the following:

   "Furthermore, a reduction of $74,900 would be applied under section 32, Staff assessment, as well as under Income section 1."

01-67047 (E) 301101

United Nations A/56/645/Add.1/Corr.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 December 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 106 (b)
Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Corrigendum

1. **Table 2, third column (section 11A)**

   The entry for posts *should read* $1,898,800

   The total *should read* $1,975,800

2. **Table 2, last column (Net total requirements)**

   The entry for posts *should read* $92,300

   The total *should read* $1,220,700

3. **Paragraph 6, first sentence**

   For $1,934,500 *read* $1,975,800

4. **Paragraph 18**

   The entry for section 11A, Trade and development *should read* ($1,975,800)

   The total *should read* $1,262,000

5. **Paragraph 19**

   The first sentence *should read*

   The total appropriation required would amount to $1,220,700.

01-69197 (E) 121201

United Nations A/56/646

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 November 2001
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 21 (f)

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Observer status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mahmoud Mohmed **Al-Naman** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 56th meeting, on 16 November 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to allocate the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union" to the Sixth Committee for the sole purpose of considering the question of the granting of observer status to the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly.

2. The Sixth Committee considered the sub-item at its 27th and 28th meetings, on 19 and 21 November 2001. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/56/SR.27 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the sub-item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 7 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/56/614).

II. Consideration of proposals

4. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of India introduced a draft resolution entitled "Observer status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly" (A/C.6/56/L.24), which read:

01-66041 (E) 291101

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its decision 49/426 of 9 December 1994,

"*Considering* the unique status of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as a world organization of parliaments,

"*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

"1. *Decides* to invite the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or a parliamentarian nominated by the Presidency to participate as an observer in the sessions and work of the General Assembly;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution."

5. At the 28th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of India withdrew draft resolution A/C.6/56/L.24 and orally proposed a draft decision entitled "Observer status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly".

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

7. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Observer status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly

The General Assembly decides to defer further consideration of and a decision on the request for observer status for the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the General Assembly[1] to its fifty-seventh session.

[1] See A/56/614.

United Nations A/56/647

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 November 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 22, 26, 27, 29, 90, 95, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 117 and 118

Final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Questions relating to information

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Environment and sustainable development

Operational activities for development

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Implementation of the Habitat Agenda and outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on this topic

Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Globalization and interdependence

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

High-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development

Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

01-65851 (E) 281101

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Right of peoples to self-determination

Letter dated 21 November 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the Declaration adopted by the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, which was held at United Nations Headquarters on 16 November 2001 (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 22, 26, 27, 29, 90, 95, 97, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 117 and 118.

(*Signed*) Bagher **Asadi**
Ambassador
Islamic Republic of Iran
Chairman of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 21 November 2001 from the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

The twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 was held in New York on 16 November 2001. We, the Ministers, declare our full commitment to the South Summit Declaration and the Havana Programme of Action as the two guiding documents of the South, reflecting the interests and concerns of the developing countries.

We also reaffirm our commitment to the Millennium Declaration and call upon the international community and the United Nations system to fully and speedily implement the provisions set out in that Declaration and in other major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective reviews, in particular those related to development and achieving the goal of poverty eradication.

We reviewed global developments and the state of international cooperation. We, guided by the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and by full respect for the principles of international law, adopted the following declaration:

I. UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Financing for Development

1. We welcome the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to convene the International Conference on Financing for Development at the summit level under the auspices of the United Nations in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002. We appreciate the generous offer of the Government of Mexico to host this Conference and pledge to spare no efforts in working for a successful outcome.

2. We emphasize the importance of all items in the substantive agenda of the International Conference on Financing for Development, namely: mobilizing domestic financial resources for development; mobilizing international resources for development - foreign direct investment and other private flows; trade; increasing international financial cooperation for development through, inter alia, ODA; debt; addressing systemic issues: enhancing the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems in support of development for the comprehensive international cooperation for financing for development.

3. We believe that in the process of financing for development the Monterrey Conference represents a unique historical opportunity for forging a broad-based consensus on the reform of the international financial, monetary and trade architecture, with a view to making it more transparent, representative, participatory and supportive of the long-term development of developing countries. Such reform must aim at establishing a favourable environment for promoting accelerated and sustained growth and development, particularly in developing countries and for the equitable and effective participation of developing countries and their institutions in the governance of the global economic, financial, monetary and trade system. In this context, we welcome the active involvement of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization as partners as well as the civil society and business sector with the United Nations in the financing for development process. We look forward to their

continued collaborative involvement in the lead-up to the Conference and the implementation of its outcome.

4. We further urge that decisive actions be undertaken by the international community to support the development of developing countries in accordance with their national plans and programmes including through strengthened partnership between the North and the South. In this regard, we call for action to expand initiatives to support countries in their efforts to attract foreign investment. We call for action to address trade concerns of developing countries, including substantially improved market access and the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers including subsidies by developed countries in areas of export interest to developing countries such as the agricultural sector as well as textile and clothing, taking into account the interest of the net-food importing countries. We also call for action to find a lasting solution to the external debt of developing countries, including through debt reduction arrangements for middle-income developing countries and the speedy and full implementation of the HIPC-II initiative and reverse the decline of ODA, to reach the internationally agreed set target of 0.7 per cent of GNP and the 0.15-0.20 per cent target for LDCs, in addition to new and additional resources.

World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10)

5. We reiterate the urgency of accelerating the comprehensive implementation of Agenda 21, and therefore, attach a great importance to the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 and its preparatory process. We consider that this Summit should provide the international community with a unique and exceptional opportunity for sober reflection and objective stocktaking. We reiterate that the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21 should focus on the identification of areas where further efforts are needed to implement Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and taking action-oriented decisions in those areas. We firmly believe that this Summit should aim at the removal of the obstacles impeding the implementation of Rio commitments and provide, in particular, the developing world with adequate financial and technological support.

6. We underline that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

7. We also express the hope that the Johannesburg Summit should achieve a renewed political commitment and support from the international community for the full implementation of the provisions of the Agenda 21, the Rio principles and all the international agreements emanating from it. The Summit should set concrete measures and specific timetable for the implementation of Agenda 21, particularly as far as the means of implementation are concerned. In this regard, we stress the urgent need to achieve substantive progress in areas of priority to the developing world, most notably, provision of requisite financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building. We reiterate the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities enshrined in Agenda 21 as well as other subsequent instruments and affirm that it should continue to be the guiding principle and framework for the full implementation of Agenda 21 and all outcomes of WSSD.

8. We welcome the recommendation report of the IFCC-X meeting in Tehran to organize a coordination meeting of the Group of 77 and China at the ministerial level on WSSD in 2002, to precede the meeting of the Preparatory Committee at the ministerial level to be held in Indonesia in 2002.

United Nations Forum on Forests

9. We are committed to actively participating in the first Ministerial Meeting during the second session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica in March 2002. We reiterate our commitment to the UNFF process and to the implementation of the Programme of Action and Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW). We urge the international community to strengthen its commitment to this process by providing adequate financial resources, facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and increasing capacity-building programmes to all developing countries, in order to effectively implement the programme of action and the MYPOW.

World Food Summit

10. We express our strong concern with the level of food insecurity and under-nutrition affecting a vast proportion of populations in numerous developing countries, and the slow progress towards halving the number of hungry people by the year 2015 as agreed at the 1996 World Food Summit and reaffirmed by the Millennium Declaration of 2000. We welcome the establishment of a Trust Fund in FAO, which will serve as a catalyst for enhancing food production and improving access to food in developing countries. We call on the international community to contribute generously to the Trust Fund.

11. We express our strong support to FAO regarding the World Food Summit: five years later to be held in June 2002. We express hope that the outcome will be positive and results-oriented and that adequate resources will be made available to ensure an effective implementation of the decisions adopted at that meeting. We call on the Heads of State and Government to participate in the World Food Summit: five years later.

International Ministerial Meeting of Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Financial and Developmental Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

12. We fully support the recommendation adopted at the Fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts of Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Developmental institutions held in New York from 30 July to 3 August 2001, to convene in 2003 in Kazakhstan an International Ministerial Meeting of Land-locked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and Financial and Developmental Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation in order to give emphasis to the development of efficient transit transport system..

World Summit on Information Society

13. We consider ICT as one of the key tools to the development of the developing countries. We stress vigorously the need to promote access to and transfer of knowledge and technology to developing countries, including information technology. We also emphasize the required resources to narrow the technology gap and the widening digital divide between the North and the South. In this context, we welcome the convening of the World Summit on the Information Society in two phases, the first in Geneva in 2003 and the second in Tunis in 2005 and encourage participation at the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit, and attendance at the

Summit at the highest possible level. We invite all Governments to actively participate in the preparatory process of the Summit.

Second World Assembly on Ageing, Spain, April 2002

14. We welcome the convening of the Second World Assembly on Ageing to be held in Madrid, Spain in April 2002, and assure our commitment to achieve a revised plan of action on ageing in line with the social, cultural, economic and demographic realities of the new century, with particular attention to the needs and perspectives of older people in developing countries.

Special session of the General Assembly on Children

15. We welcome the convening of the special session of the General Assembly on Children, to be held at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, in May 2002, and express our commitment to achieving a successful outcome.

II. RECENTLY HELD UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

16. We recognize that the political will and commitment generated at the global level require to be sustained for providing the basis for a supportive external environment and the consequent successful implementation of economic development programmes in LDCs. We resolve to cooperate among ourselves and with the development partners with this end in view. Effective measures have to be taken for assisting the LDCs in the following priority areas, i.e., building up productive, human and institutional capacities, enhanced market access, increased ODA flows of appropriate quality and FDI flows and effective relief from the crushing debt burden. Measures also need to be taken so that these countries in particular are not marginalized in the digital age.

17. We considered the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries which was set to start, as of this very year, to proceed with the development of LDCs for the decade 2001-2010. The Programme of Action contains a wide range of measures and actions in various areas, which are modest and achievable. As for the role of developing countries, we declare our readiness, within the framework of South-South cooperation, to advance the objectives of the Programme of Action with a view to accelerating growth and development and eradication of poverty in the LDCs, as well as to work in partnership with all the stakeholders to make globalization work for the LDCs.

18. We emphasize that the commitments under the Programme of Action need new resources, over and above what is already available and on the table. It is within this framework that we call on the developed countries as well as the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to undertake what is needed to live up to their commitments. We emphasize the dire need for active intergovernmental follow up and implementation of the agreed decisions and measures.

Habitat

19. We reaffirm the importance attached by the international community to the Habitat Agenda, the Istanbul Declaration and Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and reiterate the urgency of accelerating the implementation of the provision of

these three instruments. We note the result of the twenty-fifth United Nations General Assembly special session for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

20. We welcome the efforts to achieve the two most important objectives of the Habitat Agenda: "adequate shelter for all" and "sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world". We call for more action in order to overcome challenges, particularly with regard to the following objectives: wider and more effective involvement of Habitat partners in the implementation of the Habitat work programmes, especially the private and public sectors; better coordination between the UNCHS and other relevant United Nations agencies; active strategy for financial resource mobilization; greater mobility of the Centre to promote more dynamic cooperation, both regional and international; and greater linkages between the normative and operational work of Habitat, leading to pilot projects as necessary.

Twenty-sixth Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS

21. We acknowledge the "Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS" adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly, and note with grave concern that the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to constitute a global emergency, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. We emphasize the need to have an urgent, coordinated and sustained global response to address the epidemic through prevention, care, support and treatment. We urge the international community to complement efforts of developing countries through concrete incremental steps in increasing international development assistance, including through contributions to the Global AIDS Fund, commensurate with the magnitude of the problem to reach an overall target of annual expenditure of 7 to 10 billion US dollars at the national and international level to combat HIV/AIDS, and through measures to ensure that needed resources are made available, particularly from donor countries, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We reaffirm the right of developing countries to have access to affordable medicine, including anti-retroviral medicine, to combat the epidemic and in this context, emphasize that international rules on intellectual property rights should not prevent developing countries from protecting the health of their populations.

The World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR)

22. We welcome the outcome of the World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination and call for the realization of its objectives. We also commend the international community for recognizing that slavery, slave trade, including trans-Atlantic slave trade, are crimes against humanity. We recognize that the legacies of slavery, slave trade, colonialism, foreign occupation, genocide and other forms of servitude have manifested themselves in poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities.

23. We express our commitment to the accelerated implementation of the World Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in September 2001. In this regard, we reiterate our opposition to all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in various parts of the world and express deep concern on the resurgence of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in various parts of the world. We reaffirm that all forms of racism and xenophobia as well as foreign occupation constitute serious violations of human rights, which

should be rejected through all political and legal means. We condemn all forms of racism and discrimination spread through the new communications technology, including the Internet.

United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

24. We believe that the problem of the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread had a wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences and posed a serious threat to peace, security, stability and sustainable development at the national, regional and international levels.

25. We welcome the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the adoption of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. We call on the States and relevant governmental organizations at the international and regional levels to undertake initiatives to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

26. We note the outcome of the seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 29 October to 9 November 2001, which finalized the operational details of the Kyoto Protocol opening the way to widespread ratification by Governments and for the Protocol's early entry into force. We also welcome the Marrakech Ministerial Declaration as an input to the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, especially as regards the contribution that action on climate change can make to sustainable development and emphasize the importance of providing adequate financial resources, capacity-building, technology innovation and transfer to developing countries and cooperation with the biodiversity and desertification conventions.

Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

27. We note the outcome of the Fifth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and emphasize its linkage to sustainable development and poverty eradication. We call for urgent action to establish a funding mechanism for the Convention, through opening the GEF to become its financial mechanism during its forthcoming second Assembly to be held in China in October 2002.

WTO Ministerial Meeting

28. We note the conclusions of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference held at Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001 and await a thorough assessment by the Group of its outcome from the perspective of developing countries.

29. We stress the critical need for an equitable, secure, non-discriminatory and predictable multilateral trading system contributing to the enhancement of trade and development opportunities of developing countries and facilitating an increased share of these countries in international trade. As the focal point with the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development, UNCTAD should continue to examine these issues and to build a consensus for the reformulation of policies and options in this direction.

III. OTHER MAJOR ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS

30. We express our grave concern over the tragic and dangerous situation in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, which has gravely deteriorated the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people, and has negatively affected stability and development in the region as a whole. We call for the immediate and total freeze of settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, an end to the Israeli siege of Palestinian towns and villages and all other forms of collective punishment, as well as the return to the negotiating table. We reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their effort to achieve their inalienable rights, including the right to establish an independent State on their national soil, including Jerusalem. We also call for an end to Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity. We reaffirm our support for the Middle East peace process, aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace.

31. We firmly reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. We emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. We, therefore, call on the international community neither to recognize these measures nor apply them.

32. We express our grave concern over the impact of economic sanctions on the civilian population and development capacity in targeted countries and therefore urge the international community to exhaust all peaceful methods before resorting to sanctions, which should only be considered as a last resort. If necessary, these sanctions must be established only in strict conformity with the Charter of the United Nations with clear objectives, clear time frame, provisions for regular review, precise conditions for their lifting and never be used as a form of punishment or otherwise to exact retribution.

33. We welcome the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted in July 2001 by the 37th Summit of the Organization of African Unity held in Lusaka (Zambia) and express our support to it while calling upon the international community to provide the required help with a view to meeting the objectives contained therein.

34. We, recalling paragraph 16 of the South Summit Declaration and United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/210 which welcome the proposal to establish a World Solidarity Fund as a mechanism contributing to poverty eradication, and taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Secretary-General's report on the subject, request the United Nations General Assembly to take the appropriate measures for the operationalization of this Fund.

35. We emphasize that there is a need to enhance infrastructure development in developing countries, which will spur sustained economic growth. For this purpose, we urge the international community to create a dedicated multilateral mechanism of international financing for the development of infrastructure in developing countries.

36. We call upon the international community to provide the necessary assistance to landmine clearance operations, as well as to the rehabilitation of the victims and their social and economic integration into the land mine affected countries. We express concern over the residues of the Second World War in particular in the form of landmines which cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some developing countries. We demand that the States

responsible for laying the mines outside of their territories assume responsibility for the landmines, cooperate with the affected countries to get rid of them and to contribute defraying the cost of clearance and provide compensation for any ensuing losses and for reclaiming the affected areas for productive purposes.

IV. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

37. We reiterate the necessity of international cooperation to strengthen the commitment to multilateralism, while emphasizing effective North-South dialogue aimed at reinvigoration of international development cooperation geared to development and increasing democratization of global economic decision-making structure, as enshrined in the South Summit Declaration and the Havana Programme of Action. In this context we stress the importance of conveying promptly the G-77 concerns and interests to their developed partners by the Chairman of the Group of 77, including through meetings of G-8, and request our partners to facilitate such a process, through regular consultations.

V. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

38. We remain fully committed to the spirit of the Group of 77 to act in unity and solidarity, based on cherished principle of consensus, and in a transparent, inclusive and participatory manner. We reaffirm the increased importance of South-South cooperation in the current international economic climate. We therefore reiterate our support for South-South Cooperation both as a strategy in support of the development efforts of the developing countries and as a means of enhancing participation of developing countries in the global economy that is increasingly shaped by the forces of globalization and economic liberalization.

39. We approve the Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on ECDC (IFCC-X) (G-77/AM(XIII)2001/2), held in Tehran, from 18 to 22 August 2001, and welcome the Tehran Consensus as the positive outcome of IFCC-X. We commend the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting this successful meeting in Tehran, and express our profound gratitude for the excellent arrangements and facilities provided. We also welcome the generous offer of Venezuela to host IFCC-XI in 2003 as agreed in IFCC-X in Tehran.

40. We also emphasize the increasing importance and complementarities of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. In this regard, we welcome the outcome of the Twelfth Session of the High-Level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in New York from 29 May to 1 June 2001 and urge the Administrator of UNDP to continue to preserve the separate identity of the Special Unit for TCDC and to provide the necessary resources to enable the Unit to carry out its responsibilities and mandates.

41. We note with appreciation the initiatives and steps already undertaken by the Chairman of the Group of 77 regarding the preparation of the South-South High Level Conference on Science and Technology as well as the High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in the year of 2003, and invite Member States to generously offer venues for hosting of these important conferences.

42. We take note of the G-77 Chairman's report on the Extraordinary Consultative Meeting of the Group of 77 on the activities of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries (G-77 CCI) held in Tehran on 18 August 2001 on the occasion of IFCC-X and urge the

Member States to convey to the Chairman of the Group of 77 as soon as possible their views on the proposed project by the G77 CCI for the establishment of a Trade and Development Bank.

43. We take note of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Report of the High-level Advisory Group of Eminent Personalities and Intellectuals on Globalization and its Impact on Developing Countries (G-77/AM(XIII)2001/3), held in Geneva from 12 to 14 September 2001.

44. We reiterate the importance attached by the Group of 77 to the implementation and follow-up of the South Summit outcome. We welcome the progress achieved thus far in this regard in the framework of the Ad-hoc open-ended Working Group of the Group of 77 established by the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77. We agree that the Ad-hoc open-ended Working Group of the Group of 77 should continue to function as a mechanism of regular reviewing and monitoring of the overall process. We commend the inspiring leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the Chairman of the Group of 77 for the year 2001 in New York and the dedication of the secretariat as well as the dedication of the G-77 Chapters in implementing the Programme of Activities for the Follow-up and Implementation of the South Summit Outcome in 2001, adopted by the Group of 77 on 9 April 2001.

45. We approve the Financial Statement of the ECDC Account of the Group of 77 (G-77/AM(XIII)/2001/5) and urge Member States to continue to provide financial resources as agreed in the Havana Programme of Action in order to strengthen the current structures of the Office of the Chairman of the Group of 77 and invite the Member States to contribute generously to the Special Fund to facilitate the effective implementation of the South Summit outcome.

46. We approve the report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) (G-77/AM(XIII)/2001/4), which was presented in accordance with the guidelines for the utilization of PGTF, and decide to extend from three to four years the term of office of members of the Committee of Experts whose term begins in 2002 and thereafter. We commend the leadership of the Chairman of the Committee of Experts for his continued commitment and express our satisfaction with the results achieved by PGTF.

47. We express our appreciation to the five heads of State and Government of the implementation group on the conclusion of its work entrusted to them by the South Summit.

48. We request the ad hoc open-ended working group established by the 24th Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 on 15 September 2000, to carry out its mandate and to present as soon as possible a report on its work through the Chairman of the Group of 77.

49. We reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the first-ever South Summit and, with a view to addressing the chailenges identified in this Declaration, call for closer consultation and cooperation among all member States as we continue the review of activities and preparation leading to the Second South Summit in 2005.